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August 15, 2005

To: Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

From: Keno Hawker, Mayor
City of Mesa
PO Box 1466
Mesa AZ 85211-1466

RE: Power lines in Pinal County

VIA EMAIL: jhatchmiller@azcc.gov
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Dear Commissioners:

The planned 500 kV power lines you are about to consider for Pinal County will serve central Arizona and the East Valley. As an East Valley Mayor, I wanted to express my support for my fellow elected officials in Pinal County, and for the Line Siting Committee's preferred alignment.

As Chair of the Maricopa Association of Governments Regional Council, I understand how difficult it can sometimes be to reach consensus on controversial regional issues. Having followed this process, it is clear that a great deal of thought, effort and hard work have gone into the development of the alignment you are about to consider. Local input matters, and the decision reached by the Line Siting Committee incorporated a great deal of public involvement resulting in what, from my perspective, appears to be a workable compromise plan. In addition to receiving service from the future power line, Mesa also owns land that will be crossed by the proposed line. The City of Mesa acknowledges our property, like many others in the area, will be affected by the line, but we need this new facility to service continued growth in our area.

As Mayor, I also know that, if my community were in the same situation as those in Pinal County, I would hope the Arizona Corporation Commission would seriously consider my input when addressing any issue that could affect the quality of life in my community.

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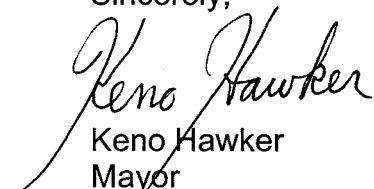


Finally, Mesa, like most communities, has been involved in controversial utility and land use projects and it has been my experience that it is often not possible to please everyone with the final outcome. In this case, when the vast majority of local leaders and elected officials representing an area strongly support the route that has been approved by the Siting Committee, I believe that route should be chosen unless there is clearly new data available that could have materially changed the decision-making process if it had been available earlier. From what I have seen in the media, the concerns being expressed now seem to be the same issues that were presented earlier; they are just being presented to your Commission, rather than to the Line Siting Committee. I encourage you to support my fellow elected officials in Pinal County and vote in favor of the current recommended route.

Mesa, and the entire East Valley, shares a common interest with Pinal County on many issues. Our continued successful growth in both areas will require regional cooperation on essential infrastructure improvements, including this one. To effectively address the demands that an ever-increasing number of residents will place on all our communities, we must work together and maximize resources. The inclusive work performed by the Line Siting Committee is an example of the type of regional cooperation we need to embrace to ensure a successful future. For that reason, I am pleased to join the Mayors of Coolidge, Casa Grande and Florence and ask for your support of the Line Siting Committee's recommended alignment on August 15.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Keno Hawker
Mayor
City of Mesa

xc: Charles Walton, Mayor of Casa Grande
Wilbur Wuertz, Mayor of Coolidge
Tom Rankin, Mayor of Florence
Mike Hutchinson
Wayne Balmer